

**In the Specification:**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:**

The present invention will be readily understood by the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate like structural elements, and in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic of a first order model for a generic restoring buffer driving a capacitive load through a homogeneous line of length  $l$ ;

Figure 2 illustrates optimum buffer insertion in a point to point net;

Figure 3 illustrates optimum buffer insertion on a multi-terminal net;

Figure 4 illustrates buffer insertion for a multi-terminal netlist;

Figure 5 illustrates buffer insertion for a multi-terminal, multi-layer net;

and

Figure 6 is a circuit diagram of an RC model;

Figure 7 is an example block diagram of a physical hierarchy of a circuit design with placed macros; and

Figure 8 is an illustration of a method of the present invention embodied in a set of computer readable instructions stored on a computer readable media.

On page 35, line 13, please add the following new paragraph:

As noted above, in one embodiment, the present invention is embodied as a method of inserting buffers in a circuit design, including the step of preparing a physical hierarchy of the circuit design with placed macros. Fig. 7 is an example block diagram of a physical hierarchy 710 of a circuit design with placed macros 720. As illustrated in Fig. 8, the method itself may be, for example, embodied in a set of computer instructions 810 stored on a computer readable media 820.. The

computer instructions, when loaded into a computer 830, cause the computer 830 to perform the steps of the method.